

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

**August 17, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Corrections Follows Through on Pledge to Support Employees in the National Guard and Reserves

First State Agency to Receive Five Star Rating

(Baton Rouge) Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Richard L. Stalder is proud to announce that the Department is the first state agency in Louisiana to fully implement the program requirements of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR).

T.K. Armington, State Co-Chair of ESGR/Operations presented Secretary Stalder with the Five Star certificate, a series of steps that expresses the Department's advocacy for America's volunteer Reserve Armed Forces. Stalder signed a proclamation on May 13th, 2004 (the first star), which expressed the Department's cooperation in complying with state and federal laws regarding re-employment of activated troops.

"I am proud of our Department's commitment to ensuring that our guard and reserve, men and women, should have no employment worries upon returning home to Louisiana," said Secretary Stalder. "We are gladly and most appreciatively fulfilling our duty to them as they have so bravely fulfilled their duty to our country."

More than 100 Department of Corrections employees (including Youth Services) have been or are currently deployed for service to Iraq, Afghanistan or other countries in support of the war on terror. Even a member of the K-9 team at Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI) in Jackson has served in the fight. It was arranged for drug dog, Arno to

accompany his owner, Major John Smith to his Navy post in Georgia when Smith was called to active duty in September 2001. Arno made history by becoming the first non-military dog to be accepted to perform patrols.

“ESGR recognizes the generous actions taken by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The Department has been exemplary in implementing the five star statement of support process, especially the on-line training program which is unique in training supervisory personnel in the requirements of the Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services,” stated T.K. Armington.

The 5-Star ESGR program contains the following provisions for employers:

- **Sign a statement of support** – Secretary Stalder signed on May 13, 2004.
- **Review Human Resource and Personnel policies** – DPS&C issued Departmental Regulation #A-02-037 assuring compliance with USERRA.
- **Train supervisors on established policy**
- **‘Over and Above’ policies** -- DPS&C encourages employees to offer letters of support and encouragement to those separated from their families by active military duty. Employees also donate frequent flier miles for use by military personnel and support our troops in efforts such as “Operation Independence Day”, which paid for troops to spend time at home before being deployed.
- **Employers become ESGR Advocates** – All employees are encouraged to support ESGR by becoming advocates in their communities, speaking to Rotary and other civic clubs. Secretary Stalder, Wardens and other employees promote the ESGR program to national organizations such as the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) and the American Correctional Association (ACA).

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization, providing free education, consultation and, if necessary, mediation for employers and Guard and Reserve employees.

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